

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request admission of the foregoing amendment to place the application in condition for allowance by traversing the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-6 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claims. Claims 1 and 6 are sought to be amended. Claim 21 is sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,977,798 to Zerbe (hereinafter "Zerbe"). (*See* Office Action at p. 2.) Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Amended independent claim 1 recites (emphasis added):

A latch circuit, comprising:

a bistable pair of transistors connected ***directly*** between a reset switch and a ***first node***, and having a first port for receiving a first current signal and producing a first output voltage, and a second port for receiving a second current signal and producing a second output voltage; and

a vertical latch having a first transistor and a second transistor and connected directly between said first node and a second node, said first transistor connected to said first port so that, when said first transistor is turned on, a current flows through said first transistor and said first port, said first transistor is a first type, said second transistor is a second type, and said first type is different from said second type.

Zerbe does not disclose, teach, or suggest a latch circuit having a bistable pair of transistors and a vertical latch in which the bistable pair of transistors is connected directly between a reset switch and a first node, the vertical latch has a first transistor and a second transistor and is connected directly between the first node and a second node, the first transistor is connected to the first port so that, when the first transistor is turned on, a current flows through the first transistor and the first port, the first transistor is a first type, the second transistor is a second type, and the first type is different from the second type.

Therefore, Zerbe does not anticipate claim 1. Because claims 2 and 4-6 depend upon claim 1 and because of the additional distinctive features of claims 2 and 4-6, these claims are also not anticipated by Zerbe. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejections of claims 1, 2, and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and pass these claims to allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 3 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zerbe in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0048141 to Lin *et al.* (hereinafter "Lin"). (See Office Action at pp. 3 and 4.)

Regarding claim 21, Applicants have canceled this claim without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Regarding claim 3, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 3 depends upon claim 1. As stated above, Zerbe does not disclose, teach, or suggest a latch circuit having a bistable pair of transistors and a vertical latch in which the bistable pair of transistors is connected directly between a reset switch and a first node, the vertical latch has a first transistor and a second transistor and is connected directly between the first node and a second node, the first transistor is connected to the first port so that, when the first transistor is turned on, a current flows through the first transistor and the first port, the first transistor is a first type, the second transistor is a second type, and the first type is different from the second type. Lin does not overcome this deficiency.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Zerbe in view of Lin. Because claim 3 depends upon claim 1 and because of the additional distinctive features of claim 3, this claim is also patentable over Zerbe in view of Lin. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and pass this claim to allowance.

Conclusion

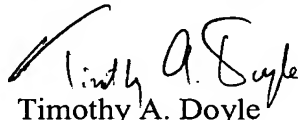
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that

personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


Timothy A. Doyle
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 51,262

Date: February 12, 2007

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

640419_1.DOC